Miss AMERICA
ONLY ONE CLUE—A RING—BUT HOW COULD MISS AMERICA TRACK DOWN THE OWNER? WHO WAS HE?
MADELINE JOYCE AND HER UNCLE, JIM BENTON ARE DRIVING HOME LATE AT NIGHT—THEY STOP FOR A RED LIGHT—
YOU KNOW, MADELINE, THESE NEIGHBORHOODS REMIND ME—? WHAT'S THAT!
THAT GIRL! SOMEONE IS CHASING HER! COME ON, UNCLE!
E-E-E-E!
STOP! STOP! (PUFF! PUFF!)
IT'S NO USE, UNCLE, HE'S GONE! HELP ME WITH THIS GIRL! WHAT HAPPENED, MISS?
PO!—! POISON—! HE—— OOOOO!

WE'VE GOT TO GET HER TO A DOCTOR!
YOU'RE WRONG, MADELINE! IT'S TOO LATE! SHE IS--- DEAD!
SOME MINUTES LATER AT THE CITY MORGUE!
WE'LL LEAVE HER AT THE MORGUE! YOU GET THE ATTENDANT! I'LL STAY WITH THE BODY!
RIGHT, UNCLE!
AS MADELINE LEAVES, A SHADOWY FIGURE STEPS FROM A CAR, AND STEALTHILY MOVING UP BEHIND HER UNCLE---
SAY, WHAT--?? OOOOOO!
POW!
WHILE UNAWARE OF THE ATTACK--- MADELINE RETURNS TO THE CAR WITH THE MORGUE ATTENDANT---
WHERE IS THE BODY, MISS?
IN THE---? WHY, IT'S GONE! OH-- UNCLE!
OOOO! WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING! SOMEONE JUST STEPPED UP BEHIND, SLUGGED YOU AND STOLE THAT POOR GIRL'S BODY!
ARE YOU TELLING ME I WAS SLUGGED! FEEL THIS MARK ON MY JAW!
H'MMM! A COILED SNAKE! FIND THE RING THAT MADE THAT MARK AND WE HAVE THE KIDNAPPER, IF NOT THE KILLER AS WELL!
IN THE MORGUE? NO THANKS!
YOU'D BETTER GET IT TREATED, UNCLE!
THERE'S A HOSPITAL ANNEX! COME, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE DOCTOR!
AS HER UNCLE LEAVES WITH THE ATTENDANT, MADELINE---
THANK GOODNESS THEY'RE GONE! NOW MAYBE I CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS! FIRST TO IDENTIFY HER, BUT HOW--? AH! HER BAG!

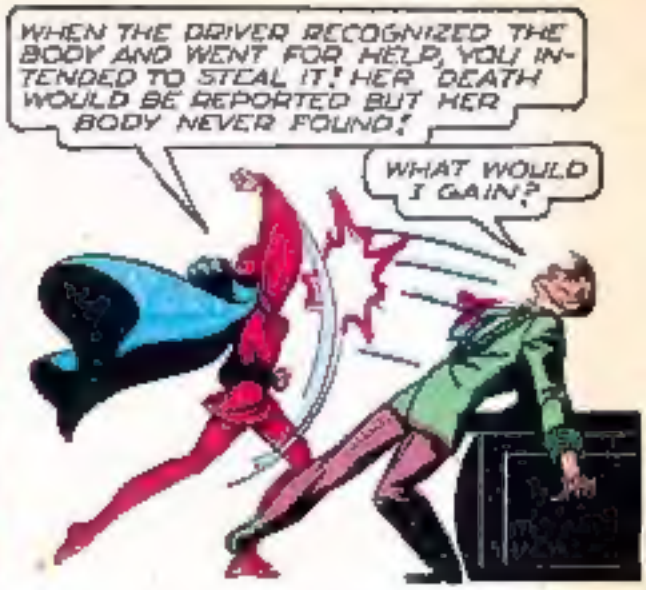
QUICKLY SEARCHING THE GIRL'S EVENING BAG, MADELINE FINDS--
--MISS AMERICA! I'LL TRY HER APARTMENT FIRST!
H'MM, HIGH SOCIETY! I REMEMBER READING OF HER DEBUT! BUT WHY HER DEATH--- I THINK I'LL LOOK INTO THIS AS--
DIANA LUKAS
23 E. 40th LANE
CITY
APT. 17-A
NO SECONDS LATER---
THIS IS THE HOUSE AND--? THAT'S HER WINDOW! SOMEONE IS HOME!
WELL, THERE'S--OH, OH, COMPANY! THIS IS TIME TO DUCK! OUCH!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU CAME IN, BUT I DO KNOW HOW YOU--
THE GLANCING BLOW STAGGERS MISS AMERICA AND BEFORE SHE CAN REGAIN HER BALANCE---
--GO--OUT!
OOOooo!
THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU THAT ABRUPT ENTRANCES ARE DANGEROUS! BUT, THEN, YOU'RE HARDLY IN A CONDITION TO APRECIATE THAT! GOODBYE, MY DEAR!

AND AS THE EFFECTS OF THE VICIOUS BLOW WEARS OFF!!
OHH! WHOEVER HIT ME, MEANT IT! LET'S SEE--! WHERE WAS I--?
THE GENTLEMAN, IF YOU COULD CALL HIM THAT, WAS THE KILLER! BUT WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE? LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?? OR--? A DUST CLOTH!
REMOVING FINGERPRINTS? THIS CUP AND SAUCER HAS BEEN WIPED CLEAN! THE OTHER PROBABLY CARRIES DIANA'S PRINTS! THE KILLER MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND!
I WONDER WHY HE SNATCHED HER BODY! IF I COULD FIND--? WHAT'S THIS? LOOKS LIKE A MAN'S SCRAWL! I'LL TRY THE NUMBER!
HELLO, INTER-CITY? DID A MAN REQUEST A CAB FOR 23 E. 40TH LANE, ABOUT AN HOUR AGO?
YES! OUR MAN CALLED BUT THE PARTY HAD ALREADY LEFT!
THIS CASE IS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE! I'VE GOT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GIRL'S BACKGROUND!
AND SECONDS LATER AT THE DAILY CHRONICLE BUILDING--
I'M SURE THE NEWSPAPER WON'T MIND IF I BORROW FROM THEIR FILES! SOMETHING HAPPENED IN 1942---

NOW I REMEMBER! DWANA WAS DUE TO INHERIT HER ESTATE THIS WEEK! THAT'S WHY SHE WAS KILLED! BUT WHY STEAL HER BODY?
DAILY CHRON
SOCIETY COUPLE DIE IN CRASH!
AND WHO WOULD BENEFIT BY HER DEATH? JOHN LUKAS AND HER UNCLE AND GUARDIAN? THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT, IS TO VISIT HIM!
I'VE GOT THE MOTIVE! BUT THE KEY TO THE WHOLE THING IS MISSING! WHY STEAL HER BODY?
ZOOM!
I'VE A HUNCH THE ANSWER TO THAT LIES IN THE PERSON WHO INHERITS THE ESTATE AT HER DEATH! AH, HERE WE ARE!
ND SWOOPING DOWN TO A LIBRARY WINDOW---
EH? MISS AMERICA? WHAT IN THE WORLD BRINGS YOU HERE?
TAP! TAP!
QUESTIONS! I LOVE TO ASK THEM, DON'T YOU?
THIS IS ALL VERY PLEASANT! I'D LOVE TO PLAY, BUT I'M A BUSY MAN AND IF YOU DON'T STATE YOUR BUSINESS, I SHALL BE FORCED TO---
KICK ME OUT? HOW IMPOLITE! MIND IF I COME IN?

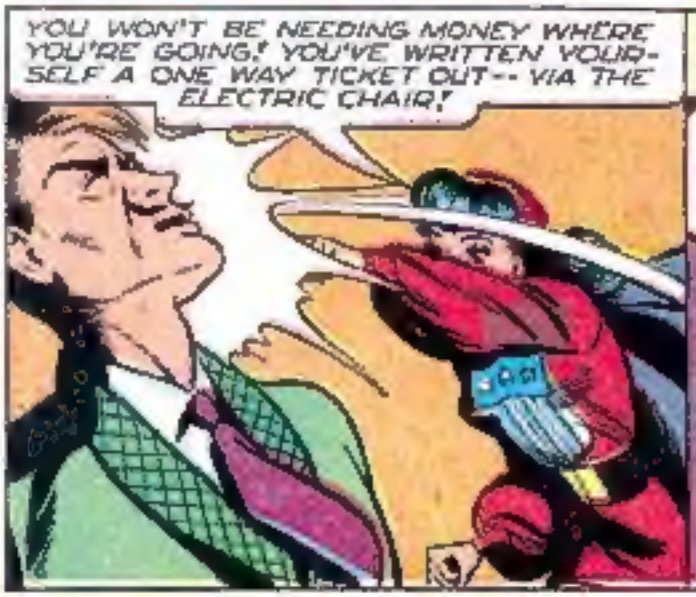
NOW, WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
YOUR ATTENTION! YOUR NIECE DIANA IS--- DEAD! SHE WAS--- MURDERED!
DEAD? I DON'T BELIEVE IT! BU--BUT WHO'D WANT TO MURDER HER?
H'MMM! DOESN'T ACT GUILTY!
SOMEONE WHO PROFITS BY HER DEATH, PERHAPS! JUST WHO DOES PROFIT, MR. LUKAS? DO YOU--?
HOW DARE YOU! I DON'T GAIN! THE ESTATE GOES TO THE BRINGHAM FOUNDATION FOR PARALYTICS!
THEN WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?
WELL, THAT LET'S YOU OUT! MY APOLOGIES FOR ANNOYING YOU!
HER CASE AGAINST LUKAS APPARENTLY NULIFIED BY THE TERMS OF THE WILL, MISS AMERICA TURNS TO GO.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING RING! I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE!
THE DESIGN IS COMMON!
YOU LIE! THE DESIGN IS RARE! YOUR RING LEFT IT'S MARK! YOU ARE THE KILLER!
YOU FOOL!
THAT RING WILL SEND YOU TO THE GALLOWS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT WOULD BE DISCOVERED THAT YOU WERE STEALING MONEY FROM THE ESTATE! YOU FACED DISGRACE WHEN DIANA CAME OF AGE!
SO I KILLED HER-- BUT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL IT!

YES, I WILL! YOU GAVE HER POISON IN HER COFFEE AND CALLED A CAB, THINKING SHE'D DIE IN IT! YOU WOULD FOLLOW IN YOUR CAR---


WHEN THE DRIVER RECOGNIZED THE BODY AND WENT FOR HELP, YOU INTENDED TO STEAL IT! HER DEATH WOULD BE REPORTED BUT HER BODY NEVER FOUND!
WHAT WOULD I GAIN?

TIME! TO REPLACE THE MONEY! THE ESTATE COULDN'T CHANGE HANDS UNTIL SHE WAS DECLARED LEGALLY DEAD! THAT WOULD LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS FOR SEVEN YEARS!

BUT THERE WAS A SLIP! DWANA BROKE AWAY, GAINED THE STREET AND DIED IN MY ARMS! YOU CHANGED YOUR PLANS ACCORDINGLY! I'LL BET HER BODY'S IN YOUR CELLAR RIGHT NOW!
YES! I NEEDED THE MONEY! KILLING HER WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT!


YOU WON'T BE NEEDING MONEY WHERE YOU'RE GOING! YOU'VE WRITTEN YOURSELF A ONE WAY TICKET OUT-- VIA THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

AND WITH THE KILLER SAFE IN JAIL, MISS AMERICA RESUMES HER ROLE AS MADELINE AND---
WELL! AT LAST YOU FIND TIME TO VISIT YOUR POOR, SICK UNCLE! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
GALLIVANTING, UNCLE! I HAD TO SEE A MAN ABOUT A RING!
THE END